

Message Text

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USDOC FOR BEWT AND TDAD/BOWIE

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TAGS:BTRA, UR, US
SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF A.T.&T. EXECUTIVES TO THE USSR

REF: (A) MOSCOW 9383, (B) MOSCOW 7707

1. EMBASSY OFFICERS MAY 5 MET WITH STATE COMMITTEE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SCST) AMERICAN SECTION CHIEF AYKAZYAN REGARDING THE PROPOSED VISIT BY A.T.&T. EXECUTIVES DEBUTTS, BROWN AND PROCKNOW. AYKAZYAN MADE QUITE CLEAR THAT THE STATE COMMITTEE AND THE OTHER MINISTRIES ARE VERY INTERESTED IN THE VISIT, AND THAT EVERYTHING WILL BE DONE TO FACILITATE IT. AYKAZYAN REPEATEDLY STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT THE MEETINGS SHOULD RESULT IN CONCRETE PROJECTS FOR POTENTIAL COOPERATION. TO THIS END, HE REQUESTED THAT THE A.T.&T. EXECUTIVES MAKE AVAILABLE TO THE SOVIET MINISTRIES AND THE STATE COMMITTEE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, PREFERABLY VIA EMBASSY CHANNELS, A LIST OF POTENTIAL PROJECTS FOR COOPERATION. AYKAZYAN STATED THAT THIS WILL PERMIT THE MINISTRIES AND THE EXECUTIVES TO AGREE ON SPECIFIC PROJECTS DURING THE COURSE OF THE MEETINGS, RATHER THAN FORCING THE MINISTRIES TO RESPOND TO A.T.&T. PROPOSALS WITH "WE WILL STUDY THEM." ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT SAY SO EXPLICITLY, HIS

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EMPHASIS ON CONCRETE PROJECTS LEFT EMBOFFS WITH IMPRESSION THAT INTEREST IN THE VISIT WILL EVAPORATE IF A.T.&T. EXECUTIVES INTEND ONLY GENERAL DISCUSSION OF "POLICY."

2. AYKAZYAN BROUGHT EMBASSY OFFICERS UP TO DATE ON STATUS OF PREPARATIONS FOR VISIT. IN CONTRAST TO HIS EARLIER STATEMENT (REF A), AYKAZYAN STATED THAT IT

HAS NOT YET BEEN DECIDED WHETHER THE STATE COMMITTEE OR THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS WILL SPONSOR THE VISIT. HE STATED, HOWEVER, THAT THE STATE COMMITTEE IS DISCUSSING THE ISSUE WITH THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THAT A DECISION WILL DEPEND TO SOME EXTENT ON NATURE OF PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY A.T.&T. A PROGRAM OUTLINE AND RESOLUTION OF SPONSORSHIP QUESTION COULD BE EXPECTED WITHIN FORTY-EIGHT HOURS OF RECEIPT OF PROPOSALS, AYKAZYAN INDICATED. (GIVEN THE INTEREST EXPRESSED BY AYKAZYAN IN THE VISIT, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT LACK OF DECISION ON A SPONSOR POSES NO GREAT PROBLEM AT THIS STAGE.) REGARDING A MEETING WITH SCST CHAIRMAN KIRILLIN, AYKAZYAN WAS NOT ABLE TO GIVE A DEFINITE ANSWER. HE TOLD EMBASSY OFFICERS, HOWEVER, THAT THE EXECUTIVES WILL BE RECEIVED BY THE MINISTRY, AND IF NOT BY KIRILLIN, THEN BY DEPUTY CHAIRMAN GVISHIANI OR ANOTHER OFFICIAL OF APPROPRIATE RANK.

3. IN TERMS OF ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS, AYKAZYAN SUGGESTED THAT THE EXECUTIVES BUY INTOURIST'S DELUXE PACKAGE, SO THAT INTOURIST WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE INTERPRETERS, GUIDES, AND OTHER AMENITIES FOR WHATEVER SIGHTSEEING AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES WHICH THE EXECUTIVES WISH. (TICKETS FOR THE BOLSHOI BALLET, THE CIRCUS, OR ANOTHER CULTURAL EVENT WILL BE PROVIDED.) AYKAZYAN ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT THE EXECUTIVES STAY AT THE NATIONAL HOTEL WHILE THEY ARE IN MOSCOW. FINALLY, HE ASKED TO BE INFORMED WHETHER WIVES WILL BE ACCOMPANYING THE EXECUTIVES, SO THAT THE APPROPRIATE USE

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RIATE ARRANGEMENTS (TOURS, ETC.) CAN BE MADE.

4. BELIEVE DEPARTMENT SHOULD UNDERLINE TO A.T.&T. THE IMPORTANCE OF DEVELOPING CONCRETE PROJECTS. EARLY IN - DISCUSSION OF APPOINTMENTS, AYKAZYAN VOLUNTEERED THAT SCST IS ABLE TO ARRANGE FOR BUSINESSMEN TO MEET WITH KOSYGIN BUT ONLY AT SUCH TIME AS THE MINISTRIES, SCST AND A.T.&T. EXECUTIVES HAVE AGREED UPON CONCRETE PROJECTS FOR WHICH THE APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNMENT IS NECESSARY.

5. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S SEEKING FROM A.T.&T. THE INFORMATION REQUESTED BY AYKAZYAN AND PROVIDING IT TO EMBASSY NOT LATER THAN COB MAY 9 MOSCOW TIME. TOON

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